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LIBRARY REPORT  
OF  
South Dakota Libraries  
1908

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BY  
Wm. H. POWERS  
PRESIDENT S. D. S. L. A.

*South Dakota Library Assn.*  
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**LIBRARY SCHOOL**

*Library School Library*  
**GIFT**

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## **Library Report**

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### **SOUTH DAKOTA LIBRARIES**

By the kindness of Wm. H. Powers, President of the South Dakota Library Association, this report on the libraries of the state is herewith submitted.

*H. A. Ustrud*

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## Library Report

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Brookings, S. D., October 29, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you a report upon the condition of libraries in South Dakota. Such report is made as the result of correspondence with you and Governor Crawford. In response to a letter from me concerning the desirability of legislation providing for a report upon libraries, Governor Crawford wrote as follows:

January 12, 1907.

MY DEAR SIR: I do not think any legislation is necessary in the matter concerning which you write. The association of the Librarians of the State is one which is so closely allied to the educational system of the state that it seems to me entirely proper for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to incorporate a report like the one you suggest in his biennial report.

Yours sincerely,

COE I. CRAWFORD, Governor.

MR. WM. H. POWERS.

As you signified your readiness to receive such report, when the governor's opinion was communicated to you, in behalf of the State Library Association I present the following information:

Yours respectfully,

WM. H. POWERS, Pres. S. D., S. L. A

To the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Pierre, South Dakota:

The South Dakota State Library Association owes its present organization to the meeting held in Sioux Falls, 1906, in conjunction with the Educational Association. The first attempt at organization dates from a meeting in May, 1904, with the Federation of Women's Clubs. The curious may learn about this and other interesting matters in the report of the Sioux Falls meeting published by the Educational Association.

In 1907 statistics were gathered and published thru the courtesy of the State Journal of Education in the October number of that Journal. Another meeting of the Association was held in Watertown, also in conjunction with the Educational Association. Because of the meeting of the American Library Association at Minnetonka in June, 1908, which it was hoped a goodly number of our librarians might attend, it was decided not to prepare a program for a meeting at Aberdeen in December, 1908.

This report embodies statistics gathered in response to inquiries sent out to the libraries and schools. The response has not been as ready as had been expected—there seems to be an ingrained antipathy to the making of reports—yet the information concerning all but high school libraries is fairly complete and, it is hoped, is accurate. High School libraries were included because the recent law gives to the development of libraries in the schools such impulse that the number of volumes in the high schools already far outnumbers these in the public libraries. It is to be presumed, therefore, that such libraries are at present showing a larger usefulness than other libraries can. It was with the thought of such conditions that the program for the Sioux Falls meeting was arranged; for in that program special emphasis was placed upon the library as it affected the schools. The usefulness of the school libraries in South Dakota, great as it is, would be greatly increased, so at least some of those who give their whole time to library work have thought, if the teachers could learn something of library methods. It is with such end in view that in many normal schools the embryo teachers are given a course of library instruction. So important is the matter that the National Educational Association recently published a pamphlet, entitled, *Instruction in Library Administration in Normal Schools*.



## LIBRARIES OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

| LOCATION          | Institution                 | Founded | Vols. total | Add. 1908 | Expenditures |          | Total (a) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|
|                   |                             |         |             |           | Books        | Binding  |           |
| Pierre .....      | State Library.....          | .....   | 20,000      | .....     | \$300 00     | \$400 00 | .....     |
| Aberdeen .....    | N. N. and Ind. School.....  | 1901    | 3,000       | .....     | .....        | .....    | .....     |
| Brookings .....   | S. D. S. C. ....            | 1887    | 11,000      | 1,119     | 694 00       | 131 00   | 1,000 00  |
| Madison .....     | State Normal .....          | 1885    | 4,000       | .....     | 100 00       | 36 00    | .....     |
| Rapid City .....  | State school of mines ..... | 1885    | 2,690       | 432       | 793 00       | 78 00    | 1,009 00  |
| Spearfish .....   | No report .....             | .....   | .....       | .....     | .....        | .....    | .....     |
| Springfield ..... | No report .....             | .....   | .....       | .....     | .....        | .....    | .....     |
| Vermillion .....  | State University.....       | 1882    | 13,500      | 1,300     | 2,300 00     | 200 00   | 25.00 00  |

(a) Not including salaries.

## LIBRARIES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

| LOCATION       | Institution             | Founded | Vols. total | Add. 1908 | Expenditures |         | Total (a) |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|-----------|
|                |                         |         |             |           | Books        | Binding |           |
| Canton .....   | Augustana college ..... | .....   | 1,100       | 80        | \$60 00      | .....   | .....     |
| Huron .....    | Huron college .....     | 1881    | 4,500       | 80        | 50 00        | \$40 00 | .....     |
| Mitchell.....  | Dakota Wes. U .....     | 1885    | 6,231       | 900       | 500 00       | .....   | .....     |
| Redfield ..... | Redfield college .....  | 1887    | 4,500       | 400       | .....        | .....   | .....     |
| Yankton .....  | Yankton college .....   | 1890(a) | 8,000       | 300       | 350 00       | 175 00  | \$875 00  |

(a) Carnegie building, 1905. No report was received from other educational institutions.

## CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

| LOCATION     | Institution         | Founded | Vols. total | Add. 1908 | Levy     | Expenditures |         | Total      |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|------------|
|              |                     |         |             |           |          | Books        | Binding |            |
| Aberdeen     | Alex. Mitchell      | 1893    | 5,000       | 478       | \$500 00 |              | 75 00   | \$2,500 00 |
| Deadwood (a) | D. Pub. Lib.        | 1904    | 4,300       | 489       | 1,500 00 | \$319 00     |         | 1,589 00   |
| Madison      | C. Lib. of M.       | 1905    | 1,750       | 320       | 1,200 00 | 250 00       | 17 00   | 1,520 00   |
| Milbank      | M. Car. Lib.        | 1901    | 1,300       | 90        | 700 00   | 136 00       |         | 700 00     |
| Mitchell     | Car. Lib.           | 1903    | 3,600       | 322       | 1,250 00 | 400 00       | 14 00   | 1,675 00   |
| Pierre       | P. Car. Lib.        | 1904    | 2,625       | 400       | 1,200 00 | 300 00       | 30 00   | 1,200 00   |
| Redfield     | Car. Lib.           | 1903    | 2,500       | 400       | 1,100 00 | 400 00       |         | 1,100 00   |
| Sioux Falls  | Car. Free Pub. Lib. | 1902    | 7,688       | 580       | 3,000 00 | 574 00       | 165 00  | 3,000 00   |
| Vermillion   | Car. Pub. Lib.      | 1904    | 2,035       | 300       | 1,000 00 |              |         |            |
| Watertown    | W. Car. Lib.        | 1900    | 2,500       | 220       | 1,500 00 |              |         |            |
| Yankton      | Car. Lib.           | 1903    | 4,000       | 1,000     |          | 250 00       | 25 00   | 1,500 00   |

(a) For 1907.

## OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

| LOCATION       | Institution              | Founded | Vols. total | Add. 1908 | Expenditures |         | Total        |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|
|                |                          |         |             |           | Books        | Binding |              |
| Britton (a)    | B. L. and R. R.          | 1905    | 400         | 124       |              |         |              |
| Gettysburg (a) | Wom. Lit. Club           | 1906    | 136         |           |              |         |              |
| Hot Springs    | Lib. Asso.               |         | 1,500       | 250       | \$200 00     |         | \$750 00     |
| Huron (b)      |                          |         | 2,000       | 135       |              |         |              |
| Lead (a)       | Hearst Free L. and R. R. | 1895    | 10,000      | 732       |              |         | 3,000 00 (a) |
| Miller (a)     |                          |         | 450         | 45        |              |         |              |
| Rapid City (a) | Free Pub. L.             | 1904    | 1,326       | 300       | 160 00       |         | 740 00       |
| Sisseton       | S. Free P. L.            | 1906    | 639         | 140       | 55 00        |         | 480 00       |

(a) For 1907. (b) Huron is about to occupy a Carnegie building.

## LIBRARIES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

| INSTITUTION           | Librarian                 | Periodicals |       | Total | Dailies | When open |       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|-------|
|                       |                           | Paid        | Gifts |       |         | Days      | Hours |
| State Lib .....       | Doane Robinson.....       | 7           | 400   | ..... | .....   | .....     | ..... |
| N. N. and I. S. ....  | Miss G. Taubman.....      | 56          | ..... | ..... | 6       | 6         | 41    |
| S. D. S. C. ....      | Wm. H. Powers.....        | 64          | 86    | 150   | 4       | 7         | 60    |
| State N. S. ....      | Mrs. L. M. Tolles.....    | 64          | 14    | 90    | 4       | 6         | 44    |
| School of Mines ..... | Della M. Haft .....       | 24          | 20    | 45    | 4       | 6         | 45    |
| Vermillion .....      | Mabel K. Richardson ..... | 115         | ..... | ..... | 6       | 6         | 66    |

## LIBRARIES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

| INSTITUTION         | Librarian               | Periodicals |       | Total | Dailies | When open |       |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|-------|
|                     |                         | Paid        | Gifts |       |         | Days      | Hours |
| Augustana C. ....   | J. S. Berdahl (a) ..... | 12          | ..... | 30    | 2       | .....     | 60    |
| Huron College ..... | T. B. Boughton .....    | 22          | 19    | 53    | 4       | 6         | 43    |
| Dak. Wes. U. ....   | G. A. Warfield .....    | 40          | ..... | 90    | 5       | 6         | 55    |
| Redfield C .....    | Eliz. H. Avery.....     | 16          | 7     | 27    | 2       | 6         | 38    |
| Yankton .....       | Helen E. Miner.....     | 60          | 10    | 85    | 15      | 6         | 66    |

(a) Library Com.

## CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

| INSTITUTION | Librarian              | Periodicals |       | Total | Dailies | Daily visitors | When open |       | Hours | Regist'd Patrons | Patrons per 10 <sup>0</sup> of pop. |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
|             |                        | Paid        | Gifts |       |         |                | Days      | Hours |       |                  |                                     |
| Aberdeen    | Aurora H. Koehler      | 21          | 7     | 42    | 2       | 44             | 6         | 45    | ..... | 3,600            | 60                                  |
| Deadwood    | Mrs. E. S. Phelps      | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | 24             | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            | .....                               |
| Madison     | Mrs. A. F. Laity       | 28          | 3     | 34    | 2       | 57             | 6         | 35    | ..... | 961              | 33                                  |
| Milbank     | Minnie Shannon         | 4           | 24    | 34    | .....   | 47             | 6         | 42    | ..... | 600              | 35                                  |
| Mitchell    | Ella M. Laurson        | 16          | 13    | 31    | 2       | .....          | 6         | 27    | ..... | 2,521            | 44                                  |
| Pierre      | Mrs. Maud R. Carter    | 23          | 22    | 48    | 3       | 55             | 6         | 39    | ..... | 1,205            | 43                                  |
| Redfield    | H. T. Patch            | 35          | 4     | 45    | 2       | 40             | 6         | 51    | ..... | 600              | 38                                  |
| Sioux Falls | Nettie L. Current      | 29          | 19    | 48    | 8       | 45             | 6         | 49    | 1     | 6,439            | 52                                  |
| Vermillion  | Mrs. M. C. McMorris    | 30          | ..... | ..... | 6       | 50             | 6         | 30    | ..... | .....            | .....                               |
| Watertown   | Mrs. P. G. Schmidt     | 29          | 10    | 58    | 1       | 22             | 6         | 40    | 1     | 800              | 15                                  |
| Yankton     | Mrs. J. M. Bartholomew | 20          | 3     | 26    | 3       | 31             | 7         | 31    | ..... | 1,850            | 44                                  |

## OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

| INSTITUTION | Librarian              | Periodicals |       | Total | Dailies | Daily visitors | When open |       | Hours | Regist'd patrons |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------|-------|------------------|
|             |                        | Paid        | Gifts |       |         |                | Days      | Hours |       |                  |
| Britton     | Mrs. Rosalie Collins   | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | .....          | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            |
| Gettysburg  | Mrs. Lucy P. Bryson    | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | .....          | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            |
| Hot Springs | Mabel Osmotherly       | 10          | 5     | 18    | 8       | 35             | 7         | 49    | ..... | 125              |
| Huron       | Mrs. J. Coshun         | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | .....          | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            |
| Lead        | Katherine E. Gold      | 70          | ..... | 70    | 24      | .....          | 7         | 49    | ..... | .....            |
| Miller      | Mrs. Mina Waters       | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | .....          | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            |
| Rapid City  | Laura Bower            | .....       | ..... | ..... | .....   | .....          | .....     | ..... | ..... | .....            |
| Sisseton    | Mrs. J. G. Leffingwell | .....       | 15    | 18    | 1       | 10             | 7         | 59    | ..... | .....            |

Thus it is seen that the Association has received reports from 32 libraries besides reports from high school libraries. There are others from which no reports have been received: From the penitentiary, from other state institutions, from a few denominational institutions, and from the following towns, where it is said libraries exist: Clear Lake, Faulkton, Castlewood, Howard, Ipswich, and Pukwana. Regarding some of these towns the information came too late to admit of asking them for a report. Yet as these libraries not reporting are all of them small, the totals obtained from those reporting are fairly accurate.

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Total volumes in state institutions .....        | 54,190  |
| Total volumes in other institutions.....         | 24,331  |
| Total volumes in Carnegie public libraries ..... | 37,298  |
| Total volumes in other public libraries.....     | 12,885  |
| Total volumes outside of school libraries .....  | 128,704 |

The growth of these libraries has really been remarkable; for outside of the institutional libraries practically all has been done since the century opened. The Carnegie Library has been the chief factor in this growth. Of these I hear good reports. In most cases the library has been cataloged, the work organized, and the librarians eager to do all that can be done to make the library helpful to the community. The conditions, however, are far from ideal, and it has been the hope of the Association that very soon there might be established a Library Commission. Such a commission is actively at work, with results, in all our neighboring states. In the meantime the Association has aimed as far as possible to make up for the want of the commission. It has been working for the establishment of some traveling libraries; for the experience of other states serves to show that of all the library activities this form pays best for the money expended. It has planned picture circuits whereby especially for the children the library room might be made increasingly attractive; it has tried thru its meetings to rouse the librarians to greater helpfulness to the communities which they serve. Its officers hold themselves ready to do everything that can be done thru correspondence to promote library growth and to increase library efficiency.

To obtain the desired information about school libraries the following questions were sent out in May to the high schools:

1. What is the number of volumes in the high school library?
  - a. Ref. books. b. Sup. reading. c. Add. July 1-June 30, 1908
2. What is the number of periodicals subscribed for?
3. How and where are books kept?
  - a. In a library room? b. Are they convenient for reference use?
4. Are they lent to pupils for home use?
5. Are they lent to others than pupils and teachers?
6. Statistics of circulation?
7. What provision is made for use of books during vacation?
8. Would the use of books during vacation be appreciated by the community?
9. Is it feasible to arrange for such use?
10. Statistics of summer use?
11. Name of librarian?

## 12. How much of her time does she give to library duties?

Returns from the schools were in many cases not made at all. Blanks were sent out twice and postal card notices twice; yet in the end only 39 out of 75 made reply. There seemed no use, therefore, in attempting to arrive at totals.

In the following table are listed all of the schools replying:

| NAME                     | Total vols.<br>in library | Ref.<br>books | Additions<br>July 1907<br>June 1908 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Alexandria .....       | 300                       |               |                                     |
| 2 Arlington .....        | 150                       | 50            |                                     |
| 3 Beresford .....        | 807                       | 115           |                                     |
| 4 Britton (a) .....      | 800                       | 300           | 250                                 |
| 5 Brookings .....        | 2,000                     | 1,000         | 100                                 |
| 6 Bryant .....           | 615                       |               | 95                                  |
| 7 Canton .....           | 1,400                     |               | 50                                  |
| 8 Castlewood .....       | 596                       | 60            | 80                                  |
| 9 Chamberlain .....      | 860                       |               |                                     |
| 10 Clark .....           | 1,500                     | 200           | 300                                 |
| 11 Clear Lake (a) .....  | 300                       | 50            | 100                                 |
| 12 Custer .....          | 600                       |               |                                     |
| 13 Deadwood (a) .....    | 3,000                     |               |                                     |
| 14 Dell Rapids .....     | 250                       | 50            | 50                                  |
| 15 DeSmet .....          | 1,287                     | 200           | 115                                 |
| 16 Elk Point .....       | 1,200                     | 700           | 100                                 |
| 17 Flandreau .....       | 2,035                     | 317           | 460                                 |
| 18 Ft. Pierre .....      | 420                       |               | 30                                  |
| 19 Groton .....          | 900                       | 225           | 80                                  |
| 20 Howard (a) .....      | 200                       | 17            | 17                                  |
| 21 Hudson .....          | 733                       | 502           | 72                                  |
| 22 Huron (a) .....       | 1,705                     | 100           | 654                                 |
| 23 Ipswich (a) .....     | 325                       | 60            | 40                                  |
| 24 Lead (a) .....        | 3,000                     | 1,650         | 250                                 |
| 25 Madison (a) .....     | 674                       | 425           | 116                                 |
| 26 Mitchell (a) .....    | 356                       | 200           | 56                                  |
| 27 Parkston .....        | 466                       | 50            | 42                                  |
| 28 Platte .....          | 308                       | 96            |                                     |
| 29 Plankinton .....      | 900                       | 125           | 150                                 |
| 30 Rapid City (a) .....  | 1,924                     | 97            | 200                                 |
| 31 Redfield (a) .....    | 800                       | 200           | 100                                 |
| 32 Salem .....           | 850                       | 100           | 50                                  |
| 33 Sioux Falls (a) ..... | 836                       |               | 100                                 |
| 34 Sturgis .....         | 2,100                     | 400           | 101                                 |
| 35 Vermillion (a) .....  | 667                       | 200           | 90                                  |
| 36 Watertown (a) .....   | 675                       | 631           | 150                                 |
| 37 Webster .....         | 2,000                     | 1,200         | 200                                 |
| 38 White .....           | 591                       | 119           | 11                                  |
| 39 Yankton (a) .....     | 1,011                     | 777           | 226                                 |

(a) Has public library.

What constitutes a reference book those who answered I judge are not agreed upon. The question was designed to bring out, of course, what portion of the library was not available for circulation; and reference books were sup-

posed to include, besides the encyclopedias, the larger histories, histories of literature, and all text-books. It is hardly conceivable that in a library for school use of several hundred volumes only a handful should be for reference. Some other interpretations was probably placed upon that term.

It is of interest to note what influence the presence of a public library has upon the school library. In some cases it would seem as yet to have no influence. The school library in several such towns seems just as large and just as varied as if no public library existed. In other cases the effect has been most striking. In Sioux Falls for example, there is in the school library about the same number of books as in Chamberlain. It must be noted also that nearly the entire number consists of reference books. Such must certainly be the tendency of the establishment of town libraries; to cut down the percentage of fiction and other circulating books purchased for the school. Does the presence of a fair school library prevent the establishment of a public library on the ground that such library is superfluous? Some superintendents with whom I have talked are of the opinion that such is not the case; the funds they say available for school libraries are so small that as the school grows the demand for reference books alone passes beyond the power to purchase and it becomes impossible to provide, with school funds, books for general reading. Furthermore it is urged that the school library tends to cultivate a taste for reading, to form the book habit. A generation brought up with good school libraries will not be satisfied without correspondingly good public libraries.

Almost as important as the book is the way in which it is kept. Only one school reports that their books are not convenient for reference use. The large number of 24 reports a special library room where the books, at least in part, are kept. In only a few cases, however, is there a well equipped reading or study room. Fourteen schools report that they are taking some periodicals, tho the number in nearly every case is small. It is an open question how much encouragement should be given to periodical reading. One superintendent reports a very great interest in such reading, which in his school is carried on under careful supervision. A considerable number of schools designate a librarian, but only eight reported definite duties and hours of service. In most cases the librarian is a pupil or a teacher who at odd times gives out books. The conditions in some of the larger schools, however, are particularly encouraging. Lead, perhaps, in this matter exemplifies its name; for there they have a large and well-equipped reading room, under the constant supervision of a trained librarian, who devotes her entire time to the service of the students. In smaller schools the example might well be followed to the extent of detailing for an hour each day one of the teachers to library duty; she should then help those who are using the library; to give out books is the smallest part of a librarian's business. Only seven schools report any statistics of circulation.

Of great general interest is the amount of vacation use made of the library. It has long seemed to the writer a sin in economy, terrible in its proportions, especially for a people so practical as the Americans that our churches should be used but one day in seven and that for many months the school houses should be a refuge only for spiders and vermin. As the school houses are becoming equipped with more and more of expensive furniture and apparatus the economic sin seems all the greater. The writer's views are shared by a consid-

erable portion of those in charge of the high schools; for five schools report that they are already in some way making provision for vacation use of books. Thirteen think that such use would be appreciated by the community, and ten think such use feasible. How this shall be accomplished is of course, where the difficulty begins. The superintendent in Plankinton checks out books at stated times during the summer. The school library at Elk Point is open two days of each week for the use of the public. Perhaps in other cases this might be good work for public spirited club women.

Libraries grouped by size are as follows:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Number containing over 2,000 volumes .....  | 6 |
| Number containing from 1,800 to 2,000 ..... | 1 |
| Number containing from 1,600 to 1,800 ..... | 1 |
| Number containing from 1,400 to 1,600 ..... | 2 |
| Number containing from 1,200 to 1,400 ..... | 2 |
| Number containing from 1,000 to 1,200 ..... | 1 |
| Number containing from 800 to 1,000 .....   | 7 |
| Number containing from 600 to 800 .....     | 6 |
| Number containing from 400 to 600 .....     | 5 |
| Number containing from 100 to 400 .....     | 8 |

Some schools even throughout the school year are extending library privileges to the public. Sixteen schools report that they are lending books to others than pupils and teachers. From the little town of Britton comes the report that the astounding number of 100 books are in circulation all the time; Britton has a small public library also.

The officers of the Association are as follows:

President, Wm. H. Powers, S. D., S. C., Brookings.

Vice Presidennt, Edla M. Laurson, Carnegie Library, Mitchell, S. D.

Secretary-treasurer, Nettie I. Current, Carnegie Llibrary, Sioux Falls.











ST. LINDER  
Syracuse, N. Y.  
Stackton, Calif.

